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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/455,331	12/06/1999	Yong-geun Kim	Q57074	4972

7590 10/22/2003

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EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/455,331

Applicant(s)

KIM, YONG-GEUN

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 7 objected to because of the following informalities: the step (a) is not included from claim 6. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3- 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tang et al. (US Patent No. 6,160,629).

As to claim 1, teaches a printer (10 in fig. 3) comprising:

a controller (22 in fig. 3) for reading print type information sent through a communication interface (42 in fig. 3) together with print data (col. 4, lines 2-4) and determining whether a user selected a confidential print mode or a general print mode, and for performing, when the confidential print mode is selected, the printing of a confidential print data file received when a code that is the same as a secret code set in the received print type information is input through the input unit (col. 7, lines 46-49 and 54-55); and

Art Unit: 2624

an engine (20 in fig. 3) controlled by the printer controller for printing an image corresponding to the print data to paper.

As to claim 3, Tang discloses every feature in claim 1, and further teaches when received print data to be printed is the confidential print data, the printer controller displays a message through a display device (fig. 7) that the received print data is a confidential document (please see fig. 7 and col. 54-59).

As to claim 4, Tang discloses an image printing system, comprising:

a computer (12 in fig. 2) having a printer driver (18 in fig. 2) for providing a print type menu on the screen of a display device (fig. 4) so that a user can select either general printing (i.e., off object in fig. 4A) or confidential printing (i.e., Private-job object in fig. 4E) with respect to a document file to be printed and outputting the selected print type information and a print data file obtained by converting the document file into a language for a printer (col. 4, lines 2-4) through a communication interface (14 in fig. 2); and

a printer (10 in fig. 3) for reading print type information transferred together with print data through the communication interface and performing printing of a confidential print data file to be printed and received when a code input through an input device is the same as a secret code set in received print type information (please see fig. 7 and col. 7, lines 46-55).

As to claim 5, Tang discloses every feature discussed in claim 4, and further teaches the communication interface (42 in fig. 2) is a network for relaying the switching of information between a plurality of computers and at least one printer (10 in fig. 2).

As to claims 6 and 8, Tang teaches the method for performing the claims 1 and 4 as indicated above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang as applied above in view of claims 1, 6 and 8, and in combination with Uematsu (US Patent No. 5,562,351).

As to claim 2, Tang discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, Tang further teaches the printer controller (22 in fig. 3) for controlling the printer apparatus and the confidential print data to be printed is received

However, Tang does not teach a sound output device is controlled by the controller to sound an alarm when the confidential print data is received.

Uematsu, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a printer (11 in fig. 3) comprising a sound output device (i.e., a buzzer 38 in fig. 3), which sounds as a warning or for notice (col. 5, lines 1-2), is connected and controlled by a controller (i.e., CPU 32 in fig. 3, col. 4, lines 58-59).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printer of Tang in order to have an alarm unit for sounding, as taught by Uematsu, when the received print data is the confidential print data. The suggestion for modifying the printer of Tang can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Uematsu because the modified printer of Tang would be desirable when its printer controller has a function for informing the user a message through the buzzer if the confidential

Art Unit: 2624

print data is received. Therefore, any of the walkup users would easily know the confidential print jobs those are received by the shared printer in the network.

As to claims 7 and 9, Tang and Uematsu teach the method for performing the claim 2 as indicated above.

Response to Arguments

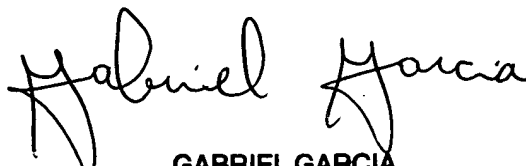
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. This action is made **non-final**.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran
Oct. 07, 2003


GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER